

LEONARD (W^m E.)

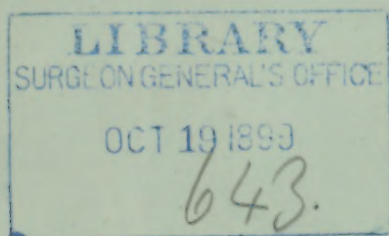
ALLOPATHIC PROGRESS,
— IN THE —
THERAPEUTICS OF PAEDOLOGY.

Compliments of

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Allopathic Progress in the Therapeutics of Pædology.

The Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, a few years since, used to warn the students against the encroachments and plagiarisms of the old school in therapeutic medicine. He said that a few years would find *all* Homœopathic materia medica incorporated into Allopathic text-books and teachings, and the same heralded as the legitimate offspring of "Scientific medicine." The warning he deduced from this statement was obvious—Hold fast to the faith that is in you, and see that no man steals your birthright.

True, indeed, was the prophecy, and true the warning! Witness its truth in such an authoritative and widely circulated work as that of Edward Ellis, M. D., on *Diseases of Children*. (Wm. Wood & Co., 1879.) We learn from the book that the author was a pupil of Sir Wm. Jenner, held responsible hospital positions in London, and now resides in New Zealand.

This, the third edition of the work since 1869, seems replete with the spirit of progress. In the author's preface, we read: "How to detect disease is a thoroughly worked problem; but how to cure disease is one that has received too little attention from scientific physicians." [Vide first paragraph of Hahn's *Organon*.] "The truth of this remark impresses itself more forcibly upon me every year that I practice my profession." * * * Bleeding, blistering, setons and issues are fast vanishing from view." * * * With regard to some new remedies and methods referred to, I have had good opportunities of testing their practical value, and can therefore speak with some confidence respecting them.

Let us review some of Dr. Ellis' "new remedies and methods," all most astonishing, from an Allopathic standpoint.

Aconite.—The National Dispensary (1880), which includes the best of the British Pharmacopœas, states—"The virtues of *Aconite* in purely inflammatory affections and fevers have not been supported by concurrent evidence." Yet, in spite of this dictum of authority, our author finds *Aconite* useful, as follows: "For ordinary cold catching in children (p. 97), if the cold be advanced, 'feverish,' with hot skin, frequent sneezing, etc., small doses of tincture, say *half a drop in a little water every half hour* [italics mine], will speedily cause diaphoresis, diminution of fever and general feeling of relief." The same treatment will cure sthenic croup (p. 105), acute laryngitis (p. 109), pneumonia (p. 120), pleurisy (p. 124), endocarditis (p. 131), sore throat (p. 137), and quinzy (p. 139). Under capillary bronchitis the author finds it convenient to mention a plan of treatment daily gaining ground in England and elsewhere, *i. e.*, by the great vascular sedatives, *Aconite* and *Veratrum viride*." He would use them for children whose previous health had been good and in whom the inflammation is acute and primary; and they

should be given as EARLY AS POSSIBLE in the course of the disease, in *small and frequently repeated doses*."

Lo! how faithfully our author has studied Ringer, that renegade Homœopathist, and yet how infrequently he acknowledges him!—only in one instance for *Aconite*, *i. e.*, under quinzey (p. 139).

Arnica (p. 173). Who taught Dr. Ellis to use it in Hydrocephalus and nocturnal incontinence of urine?

Arsenicum, advocated by Ringer, is of use for diarrhœa in children where the motions are semi-solid but contain lumps of undigested food. Pity that he could not be more accurate and look for the characteristic restlessness, thirst, and the more common green, mucus offensive stools!

Argentum-nitricum is useful in chronic dysentery, on the authority of Trousseau, in catarrhal diarrhœa, summer diarrhœa, and the diarrhœa of infants, in *doses of one-eighth to one-twenty-fourth of a grain* [italics mine]. Especial indications are (p. 145) "croupous deposits on the mouth and fauces, peculiar redness and smoothness of tongue, and irrepressible thirst." More individualization than is the common habit of Allopathy!

Baptisia, five to ten drops of tincture, is spoken of (p. 187) as a new American remedy; "a valuable antiseptic in typhoidal conditions, putrid sore throat, etc.

Belladonna finds favor in Dr. Ellis' hands as an anodyne (of course), but really to control the excited heart's action, and internally, after or during pericarditis, for the irritative cough and troublesome neuralgic pains. Better Homœopathic indications for *Bell.* are in cases of spasmodic retention of the bile, where two-drop doses of the tincture should be used, and in incontinence of the urine. We are told (p. 179): "*Bell.* is perhaps the most valuable drug we possess against pertussis. It requires to be given cautiously. I have repeatedly seen the characteristic eruption thrown out, with dryness of the fauces and dilated pupils, from extremely small doses," sayeth Dr. Ellis.

Calcarea phos. ("phosphate of lime") (p. 17) exceeds all remedies for the diarrhœa of Tuberculosis, the dose being half a grain to a grain or two grains several times a day. The hyphosphates and phosphates are also of great value in constitutional treatment of Phthisis

Camphor presents a novel use in "ordinary cold-catching," but one borne out by Homœopathic provings. Dr. Ellis would employ small doses, repeated every hour or half hour, for the "frontal fullness, coryza," etc., which lead people to say "I know I have caught a cold!"

Camphor would oftener cure the "sharp diarrhœa of infants" for Dr. Ellis, if he paid more attention to the concomitants of coldness, objection to covering, and other symptoms of collapse.

The Dispensatory recognizes our author's use of *Cimicifuga* in rheumatic chorea, but not his dose— $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 grains, in distinction to their 20 grains.

Conium is used in chronic spinal irritation, but "there is some doubt of its efficacy."

Sulphate of Copper has long been an Allopathic emetic in croup, but here we find it recommended all through the disease in doses of

from one to four grains—probably for the effects of the Homœopathic *Cuprum*.

The characteristic Homœopathic action of *Digitalis* on the heart is carefully stated, on the authority of such excellent imitators of Homœopathy as Drs. H. C. Wood, of Philadelphia, and Sidney Ringer.

Gelsemium has a use in tubercular meningitis and spinal irritation, as classed by Dr. E. among the "Electric Medicines" of B. Keith & Co., N. Y. The Doctor should read the first provings of *Gelsemium* as filed *thirty years ago* among the theses of Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia.

Under caption 20, *Hamamelis*, in Hering's Condensed, we read: "Dysentery when the amount of blood is unusually large." Dr. Ellis borrows (!) this statement bodily (p. 149) but does not acknowledge any authority.

Again we read (p. 145): "In mucous diarrhœa when stools are like chopped spinach and occasionally have a little blood in them. *Ipecac* is useful and tends to soothe the tenesmus commonly present. Small and repeated doses act best." This excellent Homœopathy is supplimented by the statement that the same drug (*Ipecac*) is almost specific in dysentery.

Kreosote is mentioned for phthisis to check secretions, for neuralgia, in chronic vomiting, etc.—uses common in Allopathy for fifty years and more, instances of their "unconscious" and unacknowledged Homœopathy.

The Homœopathic use of *Merc. Corr.* ("perchloride of Mercury") in diarrhœa is made as clear as in our own text books by Dr. Ellis, on the authority of Dr. Ringer; dose, one grain in ten ounces of water, a teaspoonful every hour (p. 147.)

The *Mineral Acids* are used most rationally, i. e.: for night sweats in phthisis, in lieuteric diarrhœa; Sulphurous acid as a preventive of quincy by inhalation, and Nitro-muriatic acid in chronic disorder of the liver.

What Homœopathist, if he chose to thus generalize, could use *Nux. vom.* more accurately than as follows: "the lassitude left after a cold, or a cold showing tendency to become chronic; in constipation to give tone to and increase the peristaltic action of the bowels especially the rectum; as a tonic in gastritis, and in diarrhœa for "slimy stools mixed with blood."

Instead of the old fashioned calomel and grey powder for chronic liver troubles in children, Dr. Ellis recommends *Leptandrin* and *Podophylin*, 1-12 to 1-6 grain *twice or three times a week!* (italics mine.)

Phosphorus. Of this drug the Doctor says: "It would seem as if the profession had but recently awakened to its value in medicine." He quotes Dr. Nelson Fox (p. 157) as saying that by *Phosphorus* "one more disease (Leucocythemia) has been rescued from the list of the almost hopelessly irremediable—dose, "1-50 to 1-100 of a grain, two or three times a day!" A score of its uses, long known to Homœopathy, are also given.

I quote (p. 173) as follows: "*Rhus tox.* is a drug requiring further investigation: recommended and used in paraplegia, erysipelas, and fevers (!) should always be given with caution."

Sanguinaria Canad. is recommended (p. 105) in croup, the indications, (strictly Homœopathic) not being given.

These particular references to this standard book have been prolonged with the view of exposing its *evident Homœopathy*. And yet see how the author evades any such deduction on his closing pages! Speaking of *Aconite* (p. 182-3) he says that the tincture of the British Ph. served him where the Homœopathic third decimal yielded no results! And farther on: "I may just mention that *Aconite* is of undoubted value in acute rheumatism, in fact, it has long been used in that disease. The circumstance appears to me to destroy the Homœopathic notion of its use. The inflammation of rheumatism differs materially from ordinary acute inflammations; to mention only one point—it exhibits no tendency to suppuration. According to Homœopathic law one remedy cannot be Homœopathic to two different conditions. It is clear, therefore, that *Aconite* cannot be Homœopathic to both kinds of inflammation. I mention this rather because I have met practitioners who appear to have an objection to employ *Aconite* lest it should be thought Homœopathic treatment. Supposing that this objection were valid against the use of any remedy calculated to relieve suffering, the above consideration appears to me completely to remove it."

Truly a learned exposition of the Homœopathic law, by one who probably more troubled himself to read "The Organon of the Healing Art." Yet need we wonder at his disposition to thus beat around the bush, when an open acknowledgement of his Homœopathic bias would be very detrimental to the acceptance of his book?

We must accept the fact that the Old School will unscrupulously appropriate all Homœopathic Therapeutics as fast as they can be (privately) convinced of its truth, and will then arrogate to themselves all claims of priority or originality. They cannot conquer us in a fair contest. Therefore the N. Y. State medical Society will hereafter consult with Homœopathists. The London Royal College of Surgeons will even admit legal Homœopathists to membership! "The Lion shall lie down with the lamb." But let the lamb be exceedingly vigilant lest sleep overcome him and the lion devour him!

Finally, to quote from an editorial in the Hahn. Monthly for March, 1882, "Arognant as it may seem, we must consider ourselves the profession, not in any pharisaical sense, but as the heaven-appointed custodians of the highest and foremost truths of therapeutic science, whose sacred interests we dare not even neglect, much less sacrifice to the behests of a maudlin sentimentality. There never was a time in Homœopathic history when watchfulness and energy, and unity on our part were so imperatively demanded as now. We must be on the alert lest our wily opponents wrest from us our present high vantage ground, or betray us into inconsistencies which shall render us unworthy of further victories. We must extend and increase the membership and the efficiency of our organizations; we must secure more and better hospital experience; we must strengthen our colleges; we must encourage our literature; develop our fields of original research and strengthen our individual influence in daily practice. Above all, *we must stand together as*

one man, hold fast the trust committed to us by the Almighty Healer, and let no man take either Hahnemann's crown or ours."

DISCUSSION.—Dr. Griswold. I have Barthlow's, *Materia Medica* in my library, and it is a very valuable work. In the first place comes the physiological action of the drug, which is nothing more nor less than the Homœopathic provings—cribbed of course from our works, for which theft we get no credit. Prof. Barthlow, is the *Materia Medicist* of Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, and judging him by his works, the bases of his prescriptions are substantially Homœopathic.

Dr. W. H. Leonard. Undoubtedly Homœopathy is being engrafted in Allopathic literature, largely. In Dunglison's *New Remedies*, he gives first the effect of the drug upon healthy persons, and afterwards applies the remedies to similar diseased states to that which they produce.

Dr. W. E. Leonard. I was told last summer by a gentleman traveling in the interests of Wm. R. Warner & Co., that the firm rely on information—cribbed from Allen's *Encyclopedia*—for basing the use of their preparations.

President O. M. Humphrey. This is an interesting subject, gentlemen, and the public and our patrons, are thinking more, on these topics, than ever before. There is a public demand for instruction on this point. The branches of medicine must be merged somehow, the public demand it.

